

ALABAMA NEWS RELEASE



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ISSUE 3 CONTAINS: INTENTIONS

MARCH 1 PLANTING INTENTIONS

Alabama suffered cold winter temperatures and drought conditions from November 2010 through mid February 2011. Mid February rains gave the entire state adequate soil moisture for spring planting, but sub-surface soil remains dry throughout much of the state. Unusually hot weather in late February warmed soil temperatures earlier than usual allowing spring planting to begin in early March.

The March 1 *Agricultural Survey* conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Alabama field office, provides planting intentions for the 2011 crop year based on a survey of 980 agricultural producers. Of Alabama's four major row crops, cotton acres are projected to increase 21 percent from 2010 and corn acres are projected to increase 4 percent, while soybean and peanut acres are projected to decrease 11- and 8-percent, respectively.

Crop Planting Intentions for 2011:

Corn producers indicate they intend to plant an additional 10,000 acres this year, or 280,000 acres.

Cotton, at 410,000 acres, reflects a 70,000-acre increase over 2010.

Peanut producers indicate they intend to plant 175,000 acres, or 15,000 fewer acres than 2010.

Soybeans, at 310,000 acres, are 11 percent below the 350,000 acres planted in 2010.

Hay, at 760,000 harvested acres, is 3 percent below the 780,000 acres harvested in 2010.

Winter wheat, with 190,000 seeded acres, rose 27 percent from last year's 150,000 acres.

Oat seeded acres, at 30,000 acres, show a 14 percent, or 5,000-acre decrease from 2010.

Sweet Potato planted intentions remain unchanged from 2010 at 3,300 acres.

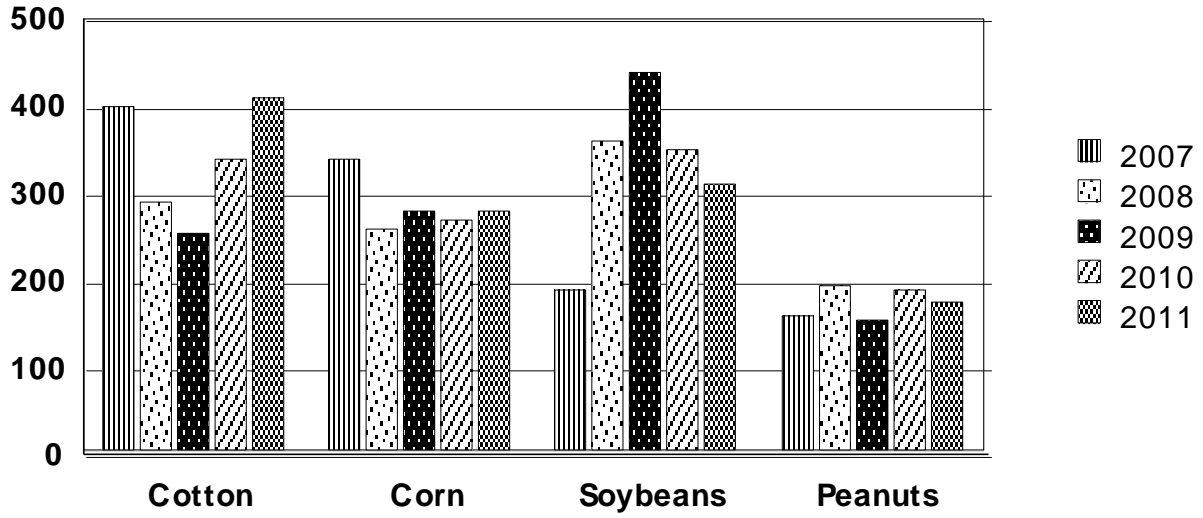
Alabama and United States: Prospective Plantings for 2011

Crop	Alabama				United States			
	2009	2010	2011 1/	% change of previous year	2009	2010	2011 1/	% change of previous year
	- 1,000 Acres Planted -			- Percent -	- 1,000 Acres Planted -			- Percent -
Upland Cotton	255	340	410	+21	9,008.1	10,769.0	12,313.0	+14
Corn	280	270	280	+4	86,382	88,192	92,178	+5
Soybeans	440	350	310	-11	77,451	77,404	76,609	-1
Peanuts	155	190	175	-8	1,116	1,288	1,237	-4
Winter Wheat 2/	220	150	190	+27	43,346	37,335	41,229	+10
All Hay 3/	800	780	760	-3	59,775	59,862	58,973	-1
Oats	50	35	30	-14	3,404	3,138	2,839	-10
Sweet Potatoes	2.6	3.3	3.3	nc	109.9	119.8	126.7	+6

1/ Intended plantings in 2011 as indicated by reports from farmers. 2/ Planted previous fall. 3/ Acres for harvest.

Alabama Crop Acreages Five Year Comparison (2007-2011)

Thousand Acres



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Agricultural Statistician
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